

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Gold King Mine Spill - Region 6**



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region VI**

**Subject: POLREP #14
Gold King Mine Spill - Region 6**

**Various New Mexico locations, NM
Latitude: 36.8374600 Longitude: -107.9916800**

From: Ronnie Crossland, Region 6 Regional Incident Commander (RIC)

Date: 8/21/2015

Reporting Period: 8/20/2015 0700 – 8/20/2015 1900

1. Introduction

1.1 Description of Threat

Region 8 reported approximately three million gallons of mine waste water was released into Cement Creek and the Animas River. The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Durango, Colorado, and into New Mexico and Utah.

1.2 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

Water monitoring and sampling is ongoing at public water supply intakes and private wells and field pH levels and other water quality parameters are being monitored.

2. Current Activities

Headquarters has established a joint website at www.epa.gov/goldkingmine.

Created a new general public call-in number for Regions 6, 8, and 9: (844) 607-9700.

2.1 Operations Section

EPA continues to discuss the short and long term criteria with NMED, as proposed in their submission.

Data Posting to the Web

The following data has been posted on the www.epa.gov/goldkingmine web site.

- Drinking Water Intake Surface Water Data from August 6 – 12th
- Drinking Water Intake Sediment Data from August 10 – 13th
- Irrigation Ditch Sediment Data from August 13th

Community Meeting/VIP

No Community Meetings or VIP visits are scheduled.

Toll-Free Number Activity

	8/20/15	Total to Date
Total Calls Received	18	172
Calls Concerning R6	3	60
Calls Returned by R6	0	57

The table below is a breakdown of the calls pertaining to Region 6. Of the eighteen Well Water Test Scheduling calls, seven of the citizens expressed gratitude for EPA's efforts in sampling.

TOPIC	DATE: 08/20/2015	OVERALL TOTALS
Well Water Test Scheduling	0	18
Water Concerns	1	8
Health Concerns	0	4
Livestock/Irrigation	0	4
Tourism/Media	0	1
Volunteer Offers	0	3
General Concerns	2	16
Contractor/Vendor Support	0	6
Daily Totals:	3	60

Private Drinking Water Well Sampling

EPA sampled forty-two private water wells on August 20, 2015. Two owners declined to have EPA resample their wells. EPA plans to sample fifteen wells on Friday, August 21, 2015. A few more wells will need to be sampled over the weekend.

Date	Number of Private Wells Resampled
8/19	38
8/20	42
TOTAL	80 Distinct Wells

EPA is drafting a letter to notify the private well owners about their test results from EPA's private well sampling when those results are available for reporting.

Date	Number of Private Wells Sampled
8/10	10
8/11	31
8/12	23
8/13	0 New Locations (38 re-samples)
8/14	35
8/15	15
TOTAL	114 Distinct Wells

NMED and DOH are hosting free well water testing on August 24-25, 2015. EPA will have a representative present at this event. Although this event is being held in San Juan County, it was scheduled prior to the incident. The testing is available to residents of Farmington and surrounding areas that are not connected to a public water utility.

Drinking Water Technical Support/Pretreatment/Connections

Morningstar has turned off the pump and is only processing water from their intake through the water treatment plant. Meanwhile, Morningstar is looking into asking Farmington for permission to connect to an 8" line under the hydrant.

Surface Water and Sediment Sampling

	8/20/2015	Total to Date
River Surface Water Samples	9	123
River Sediment Samples	9	100

Irrigation Ditch Sampling

The irrigation ditch sampling effort has been completed.

	Total to Date
Non-River Sediment/Soil Samples	59

Agriculture and Livestock Water

The agriculture and livestock team demobilized on August 20, 2015.

	Total to Date
Farmers Served	28
Gallons to Farmers	1,068,270
Livestock Farms Served	31
Gallons to Livestock Farms	36,720
Hay/Alfalfa Pickup	244 bales

2.2 Finance Section

Daily Cost Estimates Report

Funding Source	EPA Cumulative Expended Payroll	EPA Cumulative Expended Travel	EPA Cumulative Other Charges	Cumulative Contract Costs	TOTAL Cumulative Costs Expended	Estimated Daily Burn Rate
EPA	\$263,340.00	\$70,350.00	\$11,854.56	\$1,523,004.90	\$1,868,549.46	\$180,110.00

3. Participating Entities in Region 6

US EPA
 USFWS
 NMED
 ATSDR
 NM Department of Health
 NM Office of the State Engineer
 NM Department of Game and Fish
 County of San Juan – New Mexico

4. Personnel

Group	Number
Region 6 EPA @ REOC	14
Region 6 Contractors @ REOC	6
Region 6 Staff in JIC – Durango, CO	2
Region 6 Staff in Area Command – Durango, CO	1
Region 6 DD – Farmington, NM	1
Region 6 EPA OSC	3
Region 6/7 Water Technicians	6
Region 6 EPA Contractors in Field	55